

THE CHURCHES AND TO-DAY'S SERVICES

Share Your Blessings

Sermon by
REV. FLOYD W. TOMPKINS.

Text: Hebrews, xii, 16-21.

William James, a professor of Harvard University, wrote a book called "Pragmatism." When asked to define simple terms like "truth," "value," he answered, "Truth is the cash value of ideas." It was an illuminating suggestion. For ideas which have no real value in life are as uninteresting and useless as products which no one wishes to buy, and truth in a large way is truth as a market value which really proves that it is truth. A market value is that which is made by the need and by the supply. A good idea has a high price because it is in demand; even though there be no great demand for it; or it may have a high price because there are a great many people who want it. The rise and fall of prices cannot easily be understood, because there are some people who take advantage of other people's necessity and greed, and others who will give anything for the sake of profit. It is this which our government is trying to remedy, and it is a complicated matter. But the lesson from it all, which concerns truth as well as material things, is that value depends largely upon applied usefulness.

LESSONS HAVE LITTLE VALUE

A blessing, if it has any value, is shared. If it is shared, it may have splendor and wealth, but if I am satisfied just to enjoy my health and do not use it for the benefit of others, it is a question whether that good health has any real value after all, whether it may not be worse rather than a blessing. If I am successful in business and make money, the money may be a blessing. I use it for good and helpful causes; but if I hoard it, or if I use it in such a way as to make life harder than easier for others, then my wealth is a curse rather than a blessing. It hurts me and it hurts them through me. If I am a man full of wisdom, that wisdom is a blessing, but I use it to help humanity with it. I shall make myself known and pride myself upon it, and never impart it to others, then surely my wisdom has over-reached itself, and from a possible blessing it turns to a curse. All our blessings, therefore, have, as it were, a "cash value"; they are real blessings only as they are shared; the sharing is a part of their essence as blessings.

PRACTICED TO USE BLESSINGS

FOR GOOD OF OTHERS

This applies in the simplest matters, and it enables us to measure our privilages and our blessings—very well, here is a long list of them: I am alive; I have my five senses; I have my friends at home, clothing and food; I can work; I can worship; I can play; I can sleep; I can rest and study and never do harm to others; these privileges and powers doing for us are "worth gold." Does my life help any one else to live? Does the use of my life never bring happiness to other people? Are they as well off as they would if I could neither see nor hear nor smell nor taste nor feel? Is friendliness more needed and higher nobler than giving up friends? Is my home an example for other people to follow? It is pretty keen questioning, but it surely sets the value of my blessings, and interprets them as God gives them to be interpreted. For none He uses all His glorious and divine powers and possessions for His own self's happiness, but even He uses His only son to bring all men to salvation. He must exert us to the same, to use the blessings He gives for the good of others; that is, to give them.

AKIND IS INDEPENDENT ON SHARING ITS GIFTS

All this becomes still clearer when we remember how few gifts there are in the sharing of the blessings of our people with ourselves. I am going on a journey, for instance. Some men—many men—have the blessing of being able to invent and construct cars and locomotives which carry men and goods with the locomotive, and lay tracks with men some miles ahead, a company and started the railroad, and share with me by selling me a ticket to ride to my destination; I am trying to the way, and some man who could share with me his gift, so that an artist, my painter, He is along I am dependent upon the artist for sharing, and how helpless I would be if any man kept his blessings to himself and refused to share it! The sole problem of living, of happiness, progress depends upon this sharing; one is happy because the inmates of their gifts. The State is progressing—many men—have the blessing of being able to invent and construct cars and locomotives which carry men and goods with the locomotive, and lay tracks with men some miles ahead, a company and started the railroad, and share with me by selling me a ticket to ride to my destination; I am trying to the way, and some man who could share with me his gift, so that an artist, my painter, He is along I am dependent upon the artist for sharing, and how helpless I would be if any man kept his blessings to himself and refused to share it!

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

(From the Living Church.)

"Thirst and hunger; who will heel my moan?"

"Even One who long and weary fast hath known."

Falter, overburdened; who will aid? "The One on whom a heavy cross was laid."

My friends are false; to whom then shall I flee?"

"One hated by brethren on a cruel tree."

Grave in death's dark valley; who will save?"

To one who triumphed even o'er the grave!"

ARTISTS AND POETS

There now many of the graces and graces of life are dependent upon this law. In Newburyport, an old Massachusetts town, there are some beautiful gardens. They are owned by private family, but the public can enter and enjoy them at certain times; however, shared his creation of beauty; the public can enter on one of the rest in the world is not possible by the skilled hand and the magic touch of him sharing their wonderful musical gift with the people who come and are inspired by the symphonies they hear; go to the Academy of the Arts, and there I love to look at pictures which artists are glad to give without cost to the public. It is, and as I look upon the crowded stage, and keep hold of my heart, I write books on many subjects, and during their intellectual gifts with their fellows, I take down a volume of poems, and as I read with delight, a beautiful lines the poet has written, I am grateful that he was willing share his poetic gift with me. So, dear God, share with me the beauty, the birds, the flowers. He made them with His power, and in His divine beauty, but He shares them with me, and the dearest thought I have connection with the life beyond is given by the master when He says: "I go to prepare a place for you; and when He says: "Father, I will that they whom You have given Me be with Me where I am, that they may behold and share my glory."

CHRIST'S CHRISTIAN SHARES

HIS GLORY WITH US

But if the dear Christ shares and will heaven share His glory with us, would not we here on earth share our greatest blessings—those connected with our Christianity—with others? If we are given comfort in all the trials of God through Christ, just not others with them, but they may gain blessings, lest if I share them, they lose their value to me. I am in church worship. How available they tabernacles, I, Lord of hosts! I am sharing my blessings by letting others to enjoy it with me. I such comfort in my faith. I know God, loves me and cares for me.

RELIEF WORK IN ALBANIA ABSORBS MISSIONARIES

Rev. E. B. Kennedy, one of the American Board's missionaries in Albania, reports that time, strength and resources



The Bishop of London as
British Army Chaplain

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

IN DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

BISHOP GIBSON AUTHORIZES SPECIAL APPEAL DURING WAR AND ADDS TO SERVICE FOR DAY OF PRAYER

Rev. Robt. A. Gibson, D. D., Episcopal Bishop of Virginia, has authorized the use of the following prayer in his diocese for the continuance of the war in Europe.

"O Almighty God, the supreme Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom it belongs justly to punish sinners and by Justice and goodness to lead to repentance; save and deliver us humbly beneath Thee, from the hands of their enemies the armies of Europe which on the night before last are at this time standing at the gates of France. Let us, the right, and which shall be helpful to the highest interests of mankind. By the influence of Thy Holy Spirit keep down the vindictive passions and quench the barbarous cruelty common to the sick, the suffering and the wounded. Guard the women, the children and the aged, thine compassion on those who through this war are left without poverty, refuge, shelter, and succor; let us bear one another's burdens according to Thy will. Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoner come before Thee and preserve then the souls of those who are appointed to die. With victory give a deep and lasting peace to the world, that Thy Church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly quietness and that Thy holy Name may be glorified through the intercession of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Also the following additions to the Morning Prayer Litany, and Communion Office for use on the Day of Prayer, October 4th, 1914:

AT MORNING PRAYER.

For the Psalter, Psalms 23 and 66, Lessons, Isaiah 63, 7-18, and St. Matthew, 5, 4-12.

Litany.

Between the petitions, "That it may please Thee to bless us all Thy people" and the petition, "That it may please Thee to give to all nations unity, peace and concord" insert the following:

"That it may please Thee to inspire the soldiers and sailors of the contending forces with gentleness in victory and patience in reverences and to shield those who are called to posts of special peril."

"We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

"That it may please Thee to comfort all that are in anxiety or sorrow, to cheer the sick and wounded, and to show Thyself in mercy to the dying."

"We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Past. Communion. Prayer after the Gloria in Excelsis.

"O Almighty God, who canst bring out of evil and make even the wrath of man turn to Thy praise; we beseech Thee so to order and dispose the issue of the war in Europe that the human race, and especially all Christians, may be brought through this strife to a lasting peace and that the nations of the world may be united in a firm fellowship for the promotion of Thy glory and the good of all mankind; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

"So Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; grant unto Thy people that they may love the thin which Thou dost promise; that so among the sinuous and manifold dangers of the world our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

To Whom Shall We Go?

(From the Living Church.)

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TO MAKE MOTION PICTURES UNDER CATHOLIC AUSPICES

The Catholic Film Association, Inc., has been organized in New York, with Dr. Constance B. Pallen, president, to manufacture motion pictures under Catholic auspices. Explaining the objects of the organization, Dr. Pallen says:

"In the present time the moving picture business has been allowed to grow like mushrooms, without direction or purpose. The result has been that its wonderful influence has failed to be utilized by the religious and educated forces of the country, and left entirely in the hands of the irresponsible speculator."

"The general and concerted movement of the moving picture business in the hands of the religious and educational forces of the country is to be used to counteract the evil that has gone forth."

"In some instances Catholic pastors, actuated by the necessity of doing something to stem this tide in their own parishes, have established moving picture exhibitions for their parishes and schools. Wherever this has been done, it has met with remarkable success."

"There have been, however, difficulties in the way: First, in getting suitable films, and, secondly, in securing Catholic subjects. In order to put the moving picture at the service of the Church everywhere and provide properly censored films, as well as Catholic subjects for our parishes, schools, seminaries and institutions, the Catholic Film Association, Inc., has entered the field with ample capital and a thoroughly equipped organization."

RELIEF WORK IN ALBANIA ABSORBS MISSIONARIES

Rev. E. B. Kennedy, one of the American Board's missionaries in Albania, reports that time, strength and resources

are being given to the relief work in

Albania.

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there is no work for them to do."

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